

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 00138 091202Z

12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 IO-03 INR-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 RSC-01 /041 W

----- 103989

R 090757Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7809

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0138

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PARK AND
OPPOSITION LEADER

1. IN JAN 7 DISCUSSION WITH NDP CHAIRMAN KIM YONG-SAM (REFTEL) AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER IM HAD EVER DISCUSSED THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT PARK. KIM SAID THAT HE HAD NOT, BUT THAT LATE IN DECEMBER PARK HAD PROPOSED MEETING WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT. KIM SAID THAT BEFORE HE COULD GIVE AN ANSWER TO THIS PROPOSAL, THE TAEGU INCIDENT, IN WHICH HE AND PD MEMBERS WERE HARASSED BY GOVERNMENT INSPIRED WAR VETERANS, OCCURRED. ANGRY AS A RESULT OF THE INCIDENT, HE TURNED DOWN THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE LET THE BLUE HOUSE KNOW THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET PARK,BUT THUS FAR HE HAS HAD NO RESPONSE.

2. KIM SAID ALSO THAT KIM CHONG-PIL HAD OFFERED TO MEET WITH HIM PROVIDED THE MEETING COULD BE KEPT SECRET. KIM LET KIM CHONG-PIL KNOW HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET HIM BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO PUBLICIZE THE MEETING AFTER IT TOOK PLACE. KIM EXPLAINED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT NEWS OF ANY SECRET MEETING HE MIGHT HAVE WITH KIM CHONG-PIL WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAK OUT AND WOULD DAMAGE HIS STANDING WITH NDP MEMBERS.

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3. KIM SAID THAT THE FOREGOING INFORMATION WAS "SECRET"
AND ASKED THAT IT BE VERY CLOSELY HELD.

COMMENT: DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER BEEN
KIM'S FORTE, AND HE MAY WELL BE WARY OF MEETING PARK
AT THIS JUNCTURE, DESPITE HIS REMARKS ABOVE. WITH THE
NDP URGING PARK'S RESIGNATION OR, AT THE LEAST, MAJOR
CHANGES IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM, KIM WOULD PRESUMABLY
NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS BARGAINING
WITH PARK FOR ANYTHING SUBSTANTIALLY LESS.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
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